



ANCESTORS

Bartholomew County Genealogical Society

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President's Prose -by Becky Speaker

Did you know that that you can learn more about Genealogy at one of our local County Fairs and at the Indiana State Fair? From Aug. 4-20, you can visit the State Fair's 4-H Exhibit Hall and 4-H Centennial Hall where you can discover many different projects on display including the Genealogy Project. Please note that you will need to make a request to review the genealogy projects because of privacy concerns.

Did you know that you can also see budding genealogists at your local county fairs also? The 4-H Genealogy is available in most Indiana counties. In Bartholomew County, we had two brand new members, and five other members who had displayed their genealogy notebooks in the past. BCGS offers a free membership to the grand champion and has also done workshops in the past. Some of our members also exhibit their genealogy work in the Open Class Division – it's a great incentive to get yourself organized!

Did you know that your Society is at work creating new online primary documents? We received the loan of a computer and scanner from the Indiana Genealogical Society (IGS) this spring. If we scan at least five record collections, then the IGS will give us the computer and scanner. Record

collections can be any size document – even smaller pamphlets. Once the records are scanned, then we email or send a flash drive to IGS and they will load the records on their online databases so that others can access these documents.

<http://www.indgensoc.org/membersonly/county/index.php>

So far, we have completed several records such as the Frances Comfort Children's Home records (1892-1900) and the 150th anniversary booklet of the Burnsville Christian Church. The Yellow Trail Museum also participated in this grant program, and they have already provided their five record sets to receive ownership of the laptop and scanner! Soon these records will be available on the free database section of the IGS website. If you have a record set that you think should be online, please let us know. Also, let us know if you would be willing to help scan and we will set up a training session. Once you get the hang of it, it's easy!

You can contact us by e-mail, Facebook, the BCGS website, or at one of our BCGS programs.

I hope to see you at an upcoming BCGS Program!

NEW MEMBERS CORRECTION

A.H. "HUTCH" AND KEVINA SCHUMAKER II

COMING UP :

July 22

FIELD TROP TO

JEFFERSON CO.

ELEUTHERIAN COLLEGE



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PROGRAM MINUTES May 9, 2017

Our May Program was held in conjunction with a Library Program on Tuesday evening, May 9. The Program was called "A Walk Through A Cemetery." Our presenter, Indiana Department of Natural Resources historian Jeannie Regan-Dinius, took us through photos of tombstones from around the world." There were 14 members present along with 5 guests.

Jeannie began by speaking of the Puritan stones and how their unique death views heavily influences other pioneers. Early gravestones were heavily influenced by the religion of the people, and then later entire graveyards were influenced by the religion of the people being buried there. Jeannie pointed out that many religious symbols were used on stones including the following. A cross with *IHS* on it for Catholic burials. An open book was used a symbol of the book of life or the Bible. An anchor symbolized the anchor of faith. Angels represented the angels taking a soul to heaven. A lamb usually indicated the death of a child (99% of the time). Jeannie also noted the significance of nature and flowers on stones. She noted a book from 1852 entitled "The Language of Flowers," which shares explanations about the symbolization of the flowers and religious iconography.

Jeannie also spoke about Indiana's unofficial state gravestone: stones that look like trees. These tree stumps can indicate a life cut short. Jeannie also noted another book: "Stories in Stone" by Douglas Keister that might be helpful in "A Walk Through A Cemetery" Another great program for 2017!

New Books

New Genealogy Books at the Bartholomew County Library

- from Annette Blount, BC Librarian

Revolutionary War Bounty Land Grants: Awarded by State Governments.

By Bockstruck, Lloyd De Witt
Ref Gen 973.34 Boc

Early Kentucky Settlers: The Records of Jefferson County, Kentucky From the Filson Club History Quarterly.

Ref Gen 929.3769 Ear

German Census Records 1816-1916: The When, Where, and How of a Valuable Genealogical Resource.

Ref Gen 929.3 Min

NOW OPEN !

The Yellow Trail Museum in Hope has opened their
NEW RESEARCH CENTER !

Genealogy Books, Local Record Books, Scrapbooks,
Photos, Documents, Magazines, and more !

We are scanning documents using OCR Technology, so you can search within the document. You probably have seen the value of this new technology in Newspapers .com

STOP BY AND CHECK IT OUT !

Located on the NW Corner of the Hope Square

NEW YELLOW TRAIL RESEARCH CENTER !

MON and WED 10 - 2

(or by appointment)

CARVED IN STONE

-BY DONNA KUHLMAN

QUERY:

Atlas W. Shannon died in Columbus, In. on 21/Mar. 1915. She was born in Seymour on 6 Sep. 1858. I believe Atlas was a female and married a Montgomery. I have a photo of 2 young men in their early 20s taken in Columbus. My mother wrote on the back "Ray and George Montgomery, cousins of John W. Shannon of Seymour". (he was my grandfather. I also have a wedding photo taken in Seymour that says "Ray and Grace Montgomery, 1897". I am trying to fill out the link between my grandfather and the Montgomery family. Need info from the obit or tombstone for Atlas W. Shannon (Montgomery?) buried in Columbus to find the name of spouse and children and any other dates. Can you help? Jackson Co. library could find no mar-

Response:

Jackson Co. stuff is hard to research online, as their marriage records are not included in any of the principal internet sites. I have a paper index, 1816-1920.

Atlas W. Shannon seems to actually be a male--son of John Shannon and Marion (Cox). He was listed as a male on 1860 census with his parents; as "Arthur" Shannon on 1870 census, with father and stepmother; and then Atlas Shannon, a female, on the 1880, still with same father and stepmother. Atlas Shannon married Ida Combs, Nov. 16, 1884, in Jackson Co., Indiana. In 1900, they were residing in Jackson Co., with their daughter Ina, and son Homer. By 1910, they had moved to Columbus, in Bartholomew Co., Indiana. (Ina Shannon married Howard Rowlinson/Rawlinson on 25 June 1907 in Jackson Co. She died 29 Jan. 1943 in Los Angeles.)

Atlas Shannon did die in Bartholomew Co., civil death record CD2, p. 44 (a male); he has a marked grave at Riverview Cemetery in Jackson Co. See Find A Grave Memorial #80938225.

Atlas' father, John Shannon, married Marion (or Mirium) Cox, April 11, 1849, in Jackson Co., Indiana. See Find A Grave Memorial #57140632.

John Shannon married again, after Marion's death, to Mary M. (Coons) Allen (can't find the marriage record, but Findagrave says 8 April 1866.) She's buried in the same cemetery as John Shannon. See Find A Grave Memorial #101700499.

The Montgomery connection is more elusive. There IS a marriage record in Jackson Co., for 'Lucinda' Shannon and George Montgomery, Feb. 22, 1871. She COULD be Elizabeth Lucinda Shannon, an older sister to Atlas. Listed as 'Elizabeth Shannon' in 1860, 'Elizabeth L. Shannon' in 1870....which, if true, then their children would indeed be cousins. Can't find them on subsequent censuses, but didn't look beyond the first couple.

Atlas Shannon had a much younger half-brother, also named John Shannon, born about 1877. He married May Henton, 18 Sept. 1898, in Jackson Co. He might be the "John Shannon" referred to in your photo, rather than the elder John Shannon, 1825-1904. He'd have the same status as cousin as Atlas.

Hope this helps!



CARVED IN STONE

-BY DONNA KUHLMAN

QUERY:

Thank you so much. Most of what you sent I had (some of it recently after my email to you). The John Shannon born in 1877 is my grandfather, the older John is my great-grandfather.. Since I have exhausted almost all other possibilities I think Elizabeth L. Shannon is Lucinda and she is the only connection to the Montgomerys. One source said George was George M. Montgomery, another source said middle initial was W. Since I have the photo of the Montgomery Milk Wagon I have to assume the George Montgomery who owned the Milk company is a close relative to the George Montgomery who married Lucinda. That George is shown with a different wife. There is also the problem of my photo that says it is of a Ray Montgomery who married a Grace ? in 1897 in Seymour. I believe he is a son to Lucinda but can't make the connection.

Could you please look in your marriage records for Jackson Co. to try to identify a Ray Montgomery with wife named Grace who married in 1897? I believe Ray might have been a middle name. I did stumble onto a Seymour City directory for early 1900s that had several W. R. Montgomerys listed. If we can find any information on this man it might lead us back to Lucinda.

Thank you so much for your help to date and any additional information you might be able to provide.

Also, can you provide any more details on the George Montgomery shown on that marriage record to Lucinda?

Are there any paper birth records that might identify children of Lucinda and George Montgomery?

Are there any census records not available on-line? Because of the photo of 2 men in the early twenties taken in Columbia, IN, I think it is possible that Lucinda and

her husband moved to Columbus near Atlas. I tried Ancestry site but am not find any reliable census information around this time.

Thank you so much for your help to date and any additional information you might be able to provide. CF

Response:

No Jackson Co. marriage record that looks likely; nor in Bartholomew Co.

George W. Montgomery/Lucinda Shannon, 22 Feb. 1871, Book F, p. 405. Image available from LDS familysearch:

<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/VZQT-N1V>

Main search page: https://familysearch.org/search?PAGE=igi/search_IGI.asp

Don't have Jax Co. birth records.

All censuses are online 1790-1940 except 1890, which was destroyed; No state censuses for Indiana. Try LDS for census--haven't used it much for that, but it appears they have them now.

Ah ha! Here they are: Artemus G. Montgomery married Grace E. Kelso, 11 Sept. 1898, Jackson Co. They are on 1900 census in Jackson Co. as Artemus and Grace Montgomery, with infant son Ray. Then 1910 as George A. and Grace, with Ray (10), Lloyd (8), Herbert (6) and Henrietta (4). 1920, all in same household; 1930 and 1940, George and Grace Montgomery, still in Jackson Co. They are not on Findagrave, but I have found them in my print copy of Redding Township cemeteries, in Reddington Cemetery.

George A. Montgomery, 5 Oct. 1879 - 6 Dec. 1974

Grace E. Montgomery, 31 Dec. 1882 - 27 Feb. 1975

Lloyd and Henrietta on same lot, in Row 34, South Section.

Lots of Shannons there, too; don't have time to go through all right now, but will try to get this to you soon.

Tripping Over MY ROOTS

THE LENZINI'S and the CENTRALIA NO. 5 (cont) -by Robert Hobbs

In Part One of my account, you may recall that my great-grandparents left Milan, Italy and joined friends and family in Centralia, a railroad hub town in southern Illinois. Here my great-grandfather Antonio Lenzini worked as a coal miner in the Centralia #5 Mine, and here he and my great-grandmother Aldelphina had five children, two boys and three girls. When my grandfather, Alfio, their oldest child was eleven-years-old and Adolpho, their youngest was an infant only a few months of age, Aldelphia died of appendicitis. Nine months later, before Christmas on December 20, 1918, Antonio stepped on a track while working in the mine and was hit and killed by a loaded coal car.

Antonio's sister Francesca (Cia) and her husband Francesco (Frank) Lazaretti, who had several children of their own, took in the four oldest children. The baby was taken in by Antonio's cousin Pietro (Pete) Lenzini and his wife who also had several children. Alphy (Alphy) soon left school to help his aunt and uncle support the large family. My grandfather would never have a formal education beyond that of the 6th grade.



My recently orphaned grandfather Alphy Lenzini with his three sisters and brother Adolpho. Taken in 1919.

PART TWO:

Years passed and life for the family went on as normal as possible. Some male family members continued to work in the area mines, including Pete. My grandfather went to work for Coca Cola Bottling Company in Centralia and would sell and deliver the popular soft drink on his route.

One day while out in his truck making deliveries, he saw a tall young lady walking down the street on her way home for lunch. She had moved from a very small town in western Kentucky to live with her aunt and uncle and had a job in downtown Centralia. Each day he parked his truck at the same corner and waited for her as she walked by. When he called out "Hello!" to her one day, she stuck her nose up in the air and kept walking. After a few weeks of this, she relented and walked over to the truck (where he remained) and asked him what he wanted. She later wrote to me, "He was cute, congenial, and had the cutest smile and the blackest eyes. He had lots of black hair...then. Ha! Ha!"

They discovered they only lived five blocks from each other on the same street. When he came to pick her up for their first date on February 8, 1930, she opened the door to discover to her great embarrassment that she was almost a head taller. He was not any taller than his father Antonio had been. She excused herself and came back in shoes with a lower heel. They would often drive around town in his new, dark green Chevy. She said that in the over fifty years they were together he never seemed to be embarrassed



THE LENZINI'S and the CENTRALIA NO. 5 (cont)

being shorter than her.

Despite their height difference, they hit it off so well they got engaged three months after that first date. Three months later, my Italian grandfather Alphio Lenzini and my English-Irish grandmother with the Kentucky drawl, Constance Lorene Mosely, were married on August 2, 1930 in the Methodist Church located between the homes of their families. Better known by her middle name Lorene, her parents back in Kentucky were not at all receptive to her marrying an Italian and did not attend the



My grandparents Alphy and Lorene pictured with my grandfather's new green Chevrolet in 1930, the year they were married.

service. They had never met an Italian before and assumed he was Catholic. The rumor in that area of Kentucky was that all the Catholics stored guns and ammunition in their basements and were patiently waiting for word from the Pope in which the nation's Catholics would take up their stored arms and take over the country.

He definitely was not a Catholic. The story was that the Lenzini family back in Italy left the church in protest when they caught the local priest taking jewelry off a female family member just prior to her burial. Whether this is true or only family folklore remains a mystery, but either way over the years Gertrude and Henry Mosley overlooked the fact he was born of Italian ancestry and grew to love Alphy like son. In Gertrude, Alphy gained a mother and in Alphy she gained a son, having lost hers in 1916 at the age of two from what was believed to have been influenza.

March 25, 1947, seventeen years later.

For as long as anyone could remember, from the opening of Centralia No. 5 in 1907 to the 1940s, the mine had been dusty and dry. When the air is saturated with dust particles it becomes a safety hazard. A spark or flame can ignite the highly combustible dust and touch off an explosion that roars through the tunnels and rooms claiming everything in its path. The hazards of the accumulated dust could be minimized in several ways. The obvious way was to have it hauled from the mine. This method required frequent interruptions of operations and caused a loss of revenue. Another method, rock dusting, was to mix the coal dust with incombustible rock. This procedure would neutralize the explosive potential of the dust. It did not prevent explosions, but could localize a blast and reduce casualties. In some mines, coal dust was sprinkled with water for the same effect.

Controlling dust cost money, and coal companies kept a close eye on their operating expenses at the risk of the safety of the miners. It was a case of profit over safety. Also during World War II there was a high demand for coal to fuel the war effort and the government requested that the mines produce at maximum



THE LENZINI'S and the CENTRALIA NO. 5 (cont)

potential. This gave the mine operators the excuse to increase production while ignoring the dangers of the coal dust. Also with younger men away at war the average age of the miners increased. There was more absenteeism due to illness and injury and fewer men to take their places. As a result of fewer available men, mine operators postponed critical preventative measures.

Centralia No. 5 so far had been lucky, but the potential for disaster remained a present threat. Recommendations made by inspectors were ignored. Complaints from miners on the accumulation of coal dust fell on deaf years. On March 25, near the end of the day shift, the mine's luck ran out.

The work that day was concentrated in the north and northwest sections of the mine as many as four miles away from the hoisting shaft that took the miners down 545 feet and back to the top. Many of the men worked in rooms spread out for thousands of feet feeding the coal onto haulage roads where it was loaded and moved by cars on rails (like the one Great-grandpa Lenzini had the misfortune to step upon at an inopportune time almost 30 years earlier) or in buggies where no rails existed.

During the day shift men called drillers and shot firers worked to prepare for the moment at the end of the shift when explosives would be detonated to blast coal from the walls. Law required that no charges could be detonated until all normal operations had ended and the men were headed to the housing shaft or already on top. Firers received the signal to light the shots after the safety requirements were met.

Just after 3:26 pm, operations ended and men headed to the surface. Knowing that they had ten minutes to get away from the blasts, shot firers lighted the fuses to the explosive charges. On that particular day those routine actions would have catastrophic circumstances.

At 3:30, fifteen-year-old Martha Ann Lenzini left the home of her piano teacher. The high school sophomore had a piano lesson on Tuesdays soon after the end of the school day. As she walked home from her lesson, she noticed that the March day had suddenly become colder and the sweater she wore was not enough to keep her warm. As she approached the sidewalk leading to the entrance of her house, she heard sirens in the direction of the street in the next block. She stood transfixed as the sirens got louder and louder. Police cars whizzed by and were followed by an ambulance and then another and another. She hesitantly made her way up the walk and onto the porch of the brown-shingled bungalow. Her feet automatically found their way while her eyes remained fixated in the direction of ear-piercing series of sounds.

Once inside, Martha, better known to family and friends as Marty, went to the radio and turned it on. She turned the dial until she found the local radio station WCNT. Soon her younger sister Sue entered the room and stared at the radio. The screaming sirens could be still heard outside. It was as if they'd never stop.

When the war broke out, Alphy bought a grocery store a few blocks to the east of the house. He planned for the possibility that even though he was in his forties he could possibly be drafted. He wanted to leave Lorene with a source of income while he was away. He was not drafted, but they had kept the store.

*THE LENZINI'S and the CENTRALIA NO. 5 (cont)*

Lorene left the store and joined her daughters at the radio. They knew that something had to be seriously wrong and hoped that it would give them some answers.

In the first minutes after the blast the men had acted instinctively in spite of growing chaos and danger. Those closest to the hoisting shaft felt little or no impact from the explosion. The dust and smoke rolled through the passageways and replaced the cleaner air. Deep in the mine the explosion caused extreme destruction and fire, burning to death as many as sixty-five men almost instantly. The blast maimed bodies so terribly that they could only be identified from papers in their pockets. In rooms containing workers away from the point of origin, death came from lack of fresh air brought on by replacement of carbon monoxide, known by the miners as "blackdamp." One group of seventeen workers was found holding onto their lunchboxes, as if they had fallen asleep on their way to the hoist. At a point distant from the hoisting shaft, a group of about twenty-five miners had worked all day near the faces of the mine. When it was close to quitting time they had prepared to load up in cars to the cage to take them to the surface. The blast killed some of them instantly, stopping their watches at 3:25 and 3:27 pm. Some fourteen survivors made their way in the dark wanting to get as far away from what they believed to be the source of the blast as possible. They gathered in a room some 1,320 feet from where they stopped working. They huddled together and hoped that rescuers might find them. Eventually realizing their fate and growing weaker, those who were able decided to write notes to loved ones with words of encouragement and advice for their children. Unable to see what they were writing and becoming increasingly weak from the effects of blackdamp, they wrote notes that were brief and affectionate. The following are some of the notes left behind:

Written on a slab of slate with a piece of chalk: "D.T., take care of Elvis and Dickie. Ned."

Written by a thirty-year old, the father of three children, to his wife: "God bless you all, Beanie"

Others wrote:

"Please take care of my children. Love to my wife."

"Dear wife: Goodbye. Forgive me. Take care of all the children. Love."

One was addressed to two boys: "Be good boys. Please your father. Oh Lord help me"

"Dear sweetheart and sons, If I don't make it, sell the house and go live with your folks. Your mom and dad will take care of you and the boys. Please pray for me and join the church for me. Tell dad to quit the mine and take care of Mom. Well, baby and my loving boys, goodbye as I am feeling weak. Lots of love."

The last act of one man was to write on a rock face directing the rescuers to "look in everybody's pockets. We all have notes. Give them to our wives."

Alphy Lenzini entered the house from the back door and joined his family at the radio. They listened solemnly as the announcer gave limited details of the explosion. He knew where he must go. He kissed



THE LENZINI'S and the CENTRALIA NO. 5 (cont)

Lorene, hugged and kissed each of the girls, and left without a word. He backed the car out of the steep driveway on to Calumet Street and drove to Locust Street where he turned in the direction of the mine. Traffic was very slow and limited to one lane in order to allow the emergency vehicles access to the other lane normally going north. In frustration, he turned on to a side street and parked the car allowing him to walk the rest of the way to the mine.

Over five hundred people had gathered by the time he got there. Wives, sons, and daughters stood stoically waiting for word. He was looking for one particular face in the crowd. A light snow started to fall and his visibility was hampered. Finally he found the face he was looking for, that of his brother. They hugged somewhat awkwardly, but did not speak. What was there to say? One person in particular brought them there. There was nothing to do but wait.

The Centralia Sentinel became the first newspaper on the streets with news of the explosion in an extra edition that night. Little information was available. Rumors of what was found underground spread quickly. The temperature dropped close to freezing. *Sentinel* reporters spoke to those waiting for word of their relatives. Most of those keeping vigil at the mine expressed hope, punctuated by the word *if*. A reporter approached Adolph and Alphy. Adolph identified himself as the son of miner Pete Lenzini. The paper quoted him as saying, "I'm sure they have retreated and sealed themselves off...I just feel that he'll be okay. If his crew wasn't caught in the first blast...if they had a chance....if."

There was no "if" for Pete Lenzini. He was one of 111 miners killed that day.

Dominick Lenzini, a distant relative, was also killed.

Of the 142 men who were in the mine at the time of the explosion:

65 were killed by burns and other injuries

45 were killed by blackdamp

8 were rescued, but one later died from the effects of blackdamp

31 miners escaped.

Pete Lenzini was 58 years old...a husband, father, and grandfather. He was making \$1.18 ½ per hour.

Adolpho Lenzini, my grandfather's brother, not only lost the father he never knew to the mine in 1918, but almost 30 years later to the same mine, he lost his adopted father as well.

The only father he ever knew.



Bodies of men killed in the Centralia mine are placed in a hearse during rescue operations at the mine site

Bartholomew County Genealogical Society

Membership year extends from Jan – Dec (includes 4 issues of ANCESTORS)

1 year Membership: Individual (\$10) Couple (\$15)

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